

Amendments to the Claims

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Original): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
an alignment layer comprising constituent materials, the constituent materials including a stoichiometric relationship configured to provide a given pretilt angle; and
liquid crystal material in contact with the alignment layer.

16. (Original): The device as recited in claim 15, wherein the material includes SiC_x wherein x is adjusted to provide the stoichiometric relationship.

17. (Original): The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the material includes silicon oxynitride.

18. (Original): The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the material includes a material having Pi-electrons.

19. (Original): The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the alignment layer includes a tilted homeotropic alignment layer.